

District III Advisory Board Minutes

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**May 5, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

**Colvin Neighborhood City Hall
2820 S. Roosevelt**

The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Colvin Neighborhood City Hall at 2820 S. Roosevelt. The District III City Council member, Phil Lambke was not in attendance and President Pro Tem William Ward presided with five (5) District Advisory Board members in attendance. Six (6) City staff were present and approximately ten (10) members of the public, most of whom signed in.

Members Present

Jim Gulick
William Ward
Charlotte Foster
Judy Dillard
Matt Foley
Joann Hartig

Members Absent

John Kemp
Laura Simpson
Phyllis Hall
CM Phil Lambke

Staff Present

Vicki Mork
Officer Virgil Miller
Officer Ginny Wylie
Officer David Hinnens
Officer Matt Young
Beth Harlenske

Guests

see page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

William Ward, DAB member and President Pro Tem called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Before the minutes could be approved **Foster** asked about follow up to Foley's concerns on page 3 of the April minutes. **Foley** said he received answers to some but not all of his concerns. He is still waiting to find out about the truck that is dumping liquid. **Gulick** said he was told it was water that was being used in the course of water line construction around his neighborhood.

**Action: Motion made by Gulick(Dillard) to approve April 7, 2004 minutes.
Approved by a 5-0 vote.**

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled Items

Jessica Burch, 2544 N Foxroad Ct presented information from the Coalition for Tobacco Free Wichita. She explained she was opposed to breathing second hand smoke as it undermined healthy life styles and aggravated existing health conditions in other people. The Coalition has received numerous endorsements from community members and organizations. A survey conducted within the community revealed 65-71% of those polled favored a smoke free environment. Research has shown that smoke free environments have no discernable effect on various economies. She concluded by saying Lawrence Kansas just passed a “model” smoke free ordinance. She encouraged the DAB members to support this positive public health measure. Guides to smoke free restaurants were passed out and **Ward** directed Mork to mail out the guides to those DAB members not present.

Audience member **Jim Skelton**, 5903 E. Skinner asked how private clubs such as the VFW would be affected and was told they were exempted.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

- 2. Jim Skelton** said he was helping ROTC students in middle schools fulfill their community service requirement by painting some houses for the aged or disabled. He requested a couple of referrals from the DAB members if they knew of anyone.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Officer Virgil Miller, Beat 26 South City Area reported an increase in burglaries in both residential and non-residential settings. He requested that anyone seeing suspicious activity in their neighborhood call 911.

Officer Miller introduced **Officer Ginny Wylie**. She has taken Officer Jeff Andres place on Beat 25. She is a 6-year veteran of WPD and has moved from 3rd Shift to this position.

Officer Matt Young, Beat 34 reporting for his and Off Jerrell's area brought maps showing residential/ non-residential burglaries since Jan 1' 2004 through May 5, 2004. He also reported that officers stickered 96 cars for impoundment in Planeview.

Officer Hinnars, Beat 32 said many burglars are repeated offenders. A task force is looking at sentencing options besides probation including electronic monitoring. He said his area recently experienced 8 daytime burglaries. Suspects were apprehended and are to be charged with many burglaries. The Chief is very concerned about the high rate. Officers encouraged everyone to call 911 if there is suspicious activity in their neighborhoods.

Officer Miller reminded everyone they don't have to answer the door or phone if you don't want to. He also said Officers Heather Frazier and Dave Gorges from Community Affairs WPD will assess security at any house if requested.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

4. Wichita Police Department/ City Of Wichita Law Dept.

Beth Harlenski, Assistant District Attorney presented a review of the proposed changes to the funeral escort procession ordinance. She explained it was a complaint driver process. The ordinance changes presented are a result of a joint City/County task force.

Traffic regulations for funeral processions address the emergency escort vehicles, vehicles in procession and traffic in the streets. State law defines the emergency escort vehicles. A somewhat controversial item is the requirement that each procession must have three escort vehicles. This eliminates the leap frogging of vehicles and fast driving currently seen with only two escorts. Ordinance directs all traffic etiquette for funeral procession such as exiting the procession only to the right and use of headlight and emergency blinkers. **Harlenski** said public education will need to be done as a result of this ordinance change.

Ward asked how much this expanded state law. **Harlenski** replied there was no state law covering funeral processions. **Ward** asked how will out of town attendees know. **Harlenski** said they are working with providers.

Audience member **Bill Powell**, Wichita Mortuary Services explained his company's practice, one of his staff holds up a sign similar in size and shape to a stop sign asking drivers to turn on headlights and emergency blinkers as the cars leave the parking lot in the funeral procession. The instructions can also be printed on the memorial pamphlet.

Foster took exception to the language of the ordinance. **Harlenski** explained ordinances aren't written in a manner that conforms to proper English.

Powell said he and others in his industry supported the proposed changes 100 percent.

Dillard said she observed much confusion about our funeral customs on the part of international students at WSU and she suggested contacting the international program at WSU to help inform them.

Powell suggested that the ordinance be amended to include the requirement that vehicles used as escort vehicles be identified as such in writing on them. He said his competitor utilized old police cars bought at auction and they were not identified as escort vehicles. **Harlenski** agreed that was an appropriate addition she would include it in the ordinance.

Gulick asked if ordinance stated the color of the emergency lights. **Harlenski** replied state law determined the lighting for emergency vehicles and they could be red or blue.

Action: Foley (Hartig) moved to recommended approval of this ordinance to the Council. Passed unanimously 5-0.

5. Wichita Police Department/ City Of Wichita Law Dept.

Beth Harlensk, Assistant District Attorney explained this ordinance dealt with the licensure of Funeral Escort businesses. It was developed as a joint effort between the City and Sedgwick County. The license fee of \$100 applies to the business not per vehicle. All drivers must have passed a defensive driving course and the companies are required to have one million dollars insurance with \$500,000 liability insurance per incident. Failure to comply with these regulations is grounds for suspension or revocation of license. Companies will be given 90 days to comply with the ordinance. **Hartig** asked if the companies could contract out for escort drivers. **Harlenski** said the companies are responsible for hiring drivers that are qualified, meet the requirements and are covered by the company

Gulick asked how the \$100 licensure fee compared to taxes limousine companies.

Harlenski explained that it is not the same thing as no one rides in the funeral escort vehicles and she defended the low license fees saying they were balanced out with the insurance costs and defensive driving expenses incurred by these companies.

Foley asked Bill Powell how he felt about this. **Powell** replied his company exceeds the required insurance limits. **Ward** suggested rewriting the insurance section more clearly saying he was concerned that coverage could be arranged that circumvented the intent of the law. **Harlenski** defended it saying every company's insurance paperwork was carefully and thoroughly reviewed to confirm it met the required limits.

Recommended Action: Gulick (Dillard) moved to recommended approval of this ordinance to the Council. Passed unanimously 5-0.

Board Agenda

6. Updates, Issues and Reports

Dillard thanked Powell for attending this evening. **Mork**, NA for District III passed out usage figures for all Neighborhood City Halls. **Foley** asked they be shared with the CDBG staff. She also informed DAB members that Kerin Smith, president of Meadowlark Association of Neighbors was honored as a recipient of the R.A. "Jiggs" Nelson Quality of Life Award and the Garden of Eat'n was mentioned on the Eagle's editorial page that day.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

Hartig (Dillard) moved to adjourn. Passed unanimously 5-0.

7. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be June 2, 2004 at Colvin Neighborhood City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

No Action Required

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Mork, Neighborhood Assistant

Visitors

Jesse Sheffield	2526 S. Mosley
Carole Campbell	2821 S. Mosley
Lisa Wold	2820 S. Mosley
Bill & Cheryl Powell	Wichita Mortuary Services
Jim Skelton	5903 E. Skinner
Lonny Wright	1020 W. McArthur
Elena Ingle	3608 Meadow Lane